

Living Parables – a Study on Baptism

He saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit. He generously poured out the Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior. Because of his grace he declared us righteous and gave us confidence that we will inherit eternal life. Titus 3:5–7 (NLT)

Where it all came from ...

John didn't invent baptism, but he did expand it in a surprising way.

People on the outside looking in needed access to God's promises, God's family, and God's presence.

John's startling expansion said that people who thought they had everything still needed God's grace.

Jesus's Forward Look

If Jesus said that he needed to be baptized, why do so many Christians think that they don't.

Jesus's baptism points forward to the cross and gives us the essence of the saving gospel. (1 Corinthians 15:2-4)

Jesus doesn't paint a picture with baptism and forget it; he uses it as a touchstone of faith.

Our look back

Baptism is a mandate for the church and for individuals in the church. (Matt 28:18-20; Acts 2:38)

The lesson of baptism's painting Buried with Christ (dead to sin's curse); raised to a new life (Christ lives in me). (Romans 6:1-4; Galatians 2:20)

Don't leave your picture unpainted.

Some Things to Think About For the week of July 19, 2015

You may have been in second service this week to see five people become living parables explaining the gospel by their baptisms. Jot down the simple two-phrase explanation of what they portrayed.

Was there anything in this study that particularly blessed you, challenged you, or troubled you? Jot it down.

Titus 3:4-8 tells of the marvelous truths that baptism represents (particularly verses 5-6). Jot down a couple of blessings, and a couple of responses that should flow from these truths.

Complete the following sentence
If I haven't been baptized as a believer, _____?